

NATURAL SETTTNE CHAPTER THREE (Pocahontas County)

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(Part 1)

Sec D) BRUSH RUN - The Brush Run is a small branch, flowing in a westward course entering the Greenbrier River at Boyer Station on the Greenbrier River and has^a total length of 6.7 miles with a fall of 770 feet, with a fall 114.9 feet per mile , and has a drainage area 7.40 square miles , as shown by the Geological Survey of West Virginia .

Branch was
This[^] the natural outlet and route , for the greater part of the timber industry in Pocahontas County , situated on the waters of North Fork and Deer Creek.

The M.P. Bock Lumber Company that first began to operate in this section, in the year of 1901 , erected a Band Saw Mill at the mouth of Brush Run, on the Greenbrier River and built the first Log Railroad up the Brush Run , and crossed the divide or Little Mountain, on the waters of Deer Creek ; And all the many different Lumber Companies , (except the Range Lumber Company , and A.V. Miller Company) that operated the timber, on the waters of Deer Creek and North Fork , shipped their timber and lumber , down the Brush Run , to connect with the C. & O. Rail Road at Nottingham ; The Railroad on the Brush Run was in use, from 1901. to 1926. a period of 25 years, which was the period of time, taking out the virgin forest of Deer-Creek, and the North Fork Creek.

The Brush Run did not receive its name from the fact that there were plenty Brush to be found on the Run, as many folks believe;

In the year of 179⁶ Charles Gallagher made a survey of 32000 Acres of land which covered nearly all the waters of Brush Run ; In the course of a few years , the large survey was acquired by a man by the name of " BRUSH " and the survey thereafter, was known as the Brush Survey , and the Run that was almost entirely in the bounds of the Brush Survey, was named The " BRUSH RUN". in honor of the pioneer Land owner.

FURNACE HOLLOW- The Furnace Hollow is situated on the north side of Deer Creek, on the Little Mountain side, formerly on the lands of the pioneer Warwicks, now owned by Willie Sheets. At the mouth of the hollow a score or more of Furnaces or enclosed fire places were built, supposed to have been build by the Indians the reason for which is not known; The pioneer John Warwick that settled nearby - about 1770 - never knew the purpose of the furnaces, they were about three feet wide, and six feet long, and about three feet high, they are now all fallen and look like piles of rocks, The pioneers learned from the Indians that some profound secret appeared to enshroud the the "Furnace Hollow" and the "Mine Bank;" For long generations the Indians had followed the same paths beating them down/ deep in the forest earth, and the pioneers that made the settlement near the forks of the Deer Creek, at the Furnace Hollow, and the Mine Bank, recited the fact that the Indian trails appeared to diverge in every direction, from the vicinity of the forks of Deer Creek. It appears that this section of the country was a special meeting place of the Indians in prehistoric times.

When the Indians saw the pioneers building the Warwick Fort, at the forks of Deer Creek, which is between the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow, they were exasperated, and many skirmishes occurred afterwards, when they saw that they were going to lose their hunting, camping, and fishing grounds.

We have it by a direct line of tradition that a band of about forty Indians returned to their old camping ground, near the Mine bank, on a friendly mission which may have occurred about the year of 1800. Any way it did not occur till after Gen Anthony Wayne had brought about a treaty with the Indians in 1795.

These Indians were old warriors, with their wives, and some Indian Boys; Their camping place were on the lands of Andrew Warwick, in his sugar orchard, which is now owned by Gratz Blaven, and may have been near the location of the Fraternal Park.

One line of tradition of the return of the Indians, to the vicinity of the Furnace Hollow, and the Mine Bank is, that Elizabeth Warwick, who became the wife of John Slaven, on April 3rd 1783, and was living on the Greenbrier River near the Town of Frank; in company with her daughter Annie Slaven, decided to spend a few days with her brother, Andrew Warwick. upon their arrival their horses became terribly frightened when they rode into the camp of the Indians, but their fear was soon assuaged, when they saw some white folks standing near by, and learned that the Indians were not on the war path.

The Indians were lounging around on the ground, watching the boys shoot birds from the tops of sugar trees, with bow and arrows. The Indians said, they were passing through the country, visiting the graves of their fore fathers, for the last time; At least they left that impression on the minds of the early settlers.

Many prospectors, have visited the Mine Bank and "The Furnace Hollow", with maps, or plats, showing the delineation of the vicinity, of the junction of the North Fork Creek, and the Deer Creek, the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow.

The Maps appeared to divulge the fact, that upon finding a certain keystone, or rock, therefrom, by a certain bearing given, would lead the way, to some hidden treasure, mineral, or some natural compound of metal, or other treasure.

But however, the enigma, that enshrouds the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow, is left for the writer of romance. Within the past twenty five years, the Mine Bank has caught on fire, twice; and has burned for a year at a time. The Mine Bank is first mentioned in the land records, in giving the local description of the Thomas Cartmill Patent, bearing date of June 1780. and is called for near the Mine Bank, (and is near where the Bank catches on fire.)

The Furnace Hollow received its name from early pioneer Warwicks who so named it from ^{the} Stone Mason Furnaces that were found, at the mouth of the Hollow

SITLINGTON: CREEK:- Sitlington Creek is one of the most important streams to the Greenbrier River in Pocahontas County, and has its source in Galfords Creek high up in the Alleghany mountain; It flows in a general south-west direction to Michael Mountain, where it is joined by Shock Run; (formerly called Buzzard Creek) the two uniting to cut a wide pass through the range at Dummore, and is joined again by Thomas Creek $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Sitlington, where Sitlington Creek empties into Greenbrier River.

Other tributaries are Moore Run, (formerly called Henches Run) Gum Branch, Jakes Run, Stony Run, and Left Prong (of Galfords Creek) Sitlington Creek, has a total length of 14.5 miles with a fall of 1980 feet, and a rate of fall of 136.5 feet per mile; and has a drainage area of 51.06 square miles.

Sitlington Creek, is the third largest stream in Pocahontas County that flows into the Greenbrier River. This stream was so named by the fact that Robert Sitlington, was the first permanent settler on the Branch, and the eastern part of Pocahontas County. His home was in the site of the town of Dummore.

A brief history of the name sake of Sitlington Creek. as follows:-

The father of Jacob Warwick came to Augusta County, from Williamsburg Va, during Collonial times between 1740 and 1750. He was a lieutenant, in the service of the British Crown, and was employed in surveying lands in Augusta County, and what is now Pocahontas County; this Lieutenant Warwick located and occupied the property now embracing the village of Dummore, situated on the Sitlington Creek and secured this property for his own use. He married Elizabeth Dunlap, near Middlebrook, and he was one of the English gentry, whose families settled in Virginia, in consequence of political reverses in England. After this Lieutenant Warwick concluded to visit England, which he did, but never returned, and being heard of no more he was given up for dead; in the meanwhile, Mrs Warwick settled on the property, on Sitlington Creek, where the town of Dummore is now situated, and had it secured by Deed, to her son Jacob Warwick, and then afterward married Robert Sitlington, but remained at Dummore a number of years after her second marriage.